

MINUTES FOR STUDY SESSION
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
November 6, 2024
Via Zoom 6:00 PM

Present: Commissioners Bachman (Chair), Landt (Vice Chair), Adams, Lewis, Seffinger, Director Houston, Deputy Director Dials, Parks Superintendent Caldwell, Senior Services Superintendent Mettler, Executive Assistant Mero

Absent: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

Landt called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

II. PUBLIC FORUM

One citizen emailed with a request to give oral testimony for agenda item # IV the Lithia Park Master Plan – Project Prioritization.

III. REVIEW TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE DRAFT BYLAWS Director Houston

The draft Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) bylaws are designed after the bylaws of the Senior and Recreation Division Advisory Committees. Looking for Commissioner feedback.

Details of the draft TAC bylaws include:

- Five voting members representing cyclists, hikers, ADA accessibility, and two at large members
- Non-voting, ex-officio representatives from City Council, APRC, and the Forest Lands Management Advisory Committee
- Designed to be consistent with the City's pending ordinance on advisory committees
- Terms will be four years with two consecutive terms allowed

Feedback:

- Change wording of membership representation to 'prioritize' user groups of ADA accessibility, Cycling, and Hiking.
- Add the process for submission of a proposed trail to the bylaws
- Require a minimum number of meetings per year but not meetings every other month
- Clarify what constitutes a majority for voting
- Consistency in standing committees having a City Council member as a non-voting ex-officio member
- Remove term limits from the bylaws

IV. LITHIA PARK MASTER PLAN – PROJECT PRIORITIZATION Director Houston

Public Testimony: Larry Cooper spoke about the ecological importance (for fish habitat and the natural distribution of sediment) of removing the dam from Ashland Creek at the Reservoir. Lithia Park Master Plan (LPMP) recommendation #6. There could still be natural places for swimming.

Director Houston explained the process staff used to prioritize the recommended projects for Lithia Park and displayed a spread sheet with the results.

Feedback:

Include the public/various user groups in the prioritization process in an ongoing dialogue about how best to use Lithia Park

- Acquisition of land adjacent to Lithia for a bicycle skills park no longer a current priority because a skills park is in the plan for East Main St. Park
- Confirmation that this is a dynamic document - a blueprint/guide for staff to aide in implementing the recommendations from the LPMP
- Explanation that the prioritization list will be used when developing the CIP that will be presented to Commissioners for their input and eventual adoption
- Bring the item back as an Action item at the December meeting

V. LOOKAHEAD REVIEW

Director Houston reviewed the lookahead

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Bachman adjourned the meeting at 7:40 PM

Respectfully submitted

Nancy A. Mero, Executive Assistant